dition. Beat until very stiff peaks form. Do not under-beat.

cream
3 tablespoons sugar

Medical detection program probes chemicals' hazards

By John Nussbaum

A medical detection program is under way to determine the effect of vinyl and polyvinyl chlorides, used in the plastics industry, on workers' health and possible cancer-causing properties of the chemicals.

The crash research program is being conducted by federal agencies, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and its parent, Center for Disease Control, assisted by university scientists and with help from industry and labor.

The institute detailed program plans here yesterday for labor and management representatives at Sheraton Motor Inn, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

About 75 representatives of various chemical manufacturers, several schools of public health, the AFL-CIO Industrial Union, United Rubber Workers; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; International Union of Chemical Workers and United Steelworkers unions attended.

The present concern resulted from a report to the institute Jan. 22 by B. F. Goodrich Co. of four deaths between 1968 and 1973 from a rare cancer of the inner lining of blood vessels of the liver among employes of its chemical plant in Louisville, Ky.

The liver cancer, hepatic hemangio-endothetliosarcoma, was first described in 1910, and only 44 cases have been chronicled in medical literature. Normally, an estimated 20 cases a year occur in the entire United States.

Dr. Marcus M. Key, institute director, called the suspected cancer-causing role of the chlorides a crisis in occupational health. He said he hoped the situation could be confined to the four deaths and a handful of other liver disorders also reported recently.

But Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai Hospital Medical School, New York, a leading industrial epidemiologist, said the chemicals could cause other diseases.

The vinyl industry in this country is only about 35 years old. Chemically induced cancer in humans often takes as long as 20 years to show up so there may be many other unrecognized cases.

The Chemical Workers Union estimates 30,000 U.S. workers are exposed to the vinyl and polyvinyl chlorides.

Dr. Henry Falk, a center pathologist, reported none of the victims had a history of liver disease. But in two of the patients the diagnosis was nonalcoholic cirrhosis of the liver and the cancer was confirmed only at autopsies.

In the study, medical investigators will pick chemical plants similar to the Louisville plant. They will examine workers, hunt up former employes and study the records of deceased workers.

A tentative list of 27 companies, from which a handful will be chosen for study, include four in northeast Ohio.

They are General Tire & Rubber Co.'s Chemical-Plastics division, Ashtabula; the B. F. Goodrich plant in Avon Lake, and the Uniroyal Inc. chemical division and Robintech Inc., both in Painesville.

Scientists, labor and industry representatives hammered out emergency safety standards for chloride handling which the institute will recommend to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The standards include protective clothing, respirators, mandatory showers, ventilation, and a stiffer federal standards on chloride fumes.

Dr. Samuel S. Epstein, professor of environmental health at Case Western Reserve University, said more preventive research was needed in order to avert the need of responding to crises. He said many hazards may be overlooked by not investigating substances and industrial processes until a hazard is detected.

"The only things that brought us here today is the unusual occurrence of a rare tumor. Had VC merely produced an increased incidence of lung cancer we would not be here," he said.